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Report cop backed a

News

Latest markets

**Red
Streak**

Stocks off

spies burglary

Socialist office here was looted

By Larry Green
and Rob Warden

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A right-wing paramilitary group broke into the office of the Young Socialist Alliance in 1969 at the behest of Chicago police undercover agents, an informant has told The Daily News.

The informant said police intelligence agents in unmarked cars waited outside to protect the burglars in the event someone discovered the burglary in progress and reported it.

Documents comprising more than 2,000 pages were taken by the burglars, who were members of a group called the Legion of Justice, according to the informant.

WHEN ASKED to comment on the informant's allegation Monday, Police Supt. James M. Rochford told Daily News reporter Edmund J. Rooney:

"Whatever evidence or proof, if any, to support these allegations should be immediately taken to the Cook County grand jury."

The alleged incident occurred before Rochford became superintendent in October, 1973. James B. Conlisk Jr., who was superintendent at the time of the burglary, couldn't be reached for comment Monday.

AFTER THE burglary at Young Socialist Alliance headquarters, Canal and Jackson, on Nov. 1, 1969, the informant said, the documents were turned over immediately to a federal intelligence agency working with the local police.

Most of the documents were "junk" but others were "pertinent," he said, and copies of the latter were made for both police files and files of the federal intelligence operation involved.

It took several days for in-

telligence agents to sift through the purloined material, which included several tapes, the informant added.

WHEN THE agents finished, Turn to Back Page, this section



Thomas Sutton
Legion of Justice founder

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he said, the Legion of Justice called a press conference and displayed all of the stolen records.

At the press conference on Nov. 12, 1969, the late Thomas Sutton, founder and lawyer for the Legion of Justice, said the "material and documents of treason" had been "liberated" by members of his group.

In the wake of publicity over Sutton's flaunting of material that undeniably had been obtained illegally, the lawyer was arrested by police intelligence agents and charged with theft.

At the time, it was consid-

ered unusual that such an arrest would be made by intelligence officers, rather than robbery investigators.

MORE questions were raised when Sutton was acquitted. The Independent Voters of Illinois charged that the acquittal was the result of sloppy prosecution by the office of the then state's attorney, Edward V. Hanrahan.

Key elements of the informant's story were corroborated by a highly reliable source close to police intelligence agents.

Both the informant and the corroborating source reportedly are willing to give details

to a Cook County grand jury that opened an investigation into police spying Monday.

STATE'S ATTY. Bernard Carey reportedly has agreed to grant the informant immunity from prosecution in exchange for testimony that might implicate police department higher-ups.

Although the statute of limitation for burglary is three years, it is double in cases involving police officers — meaning that police still could be prosecuted in this case.

Neither Police Supt. James M. Rochford nor Deputy Supt. Mitchell Ware could be reached for comment Sunday night.